

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 24, 2017**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse, located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, Stephen Jordan, Gerrit H. DeVries, Gary Fritts, Paul Norwine and Brett Risner. Please let the record show that Andrew Andree was absent. Also present was Auditor Kimberly K. Grow and Deputy Auditor Tina Porter. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Bontreger.

MINUTES: Mr. DeVries made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2017 meeting, as presented. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF RISNER / SALARY: Sheriff Risner presented his salary contract for fiscal year 2018. He stated that the wording on the contract is the same as it has been for the previous seven years. All left-over meal money and money made on tax warrants gets returned to the General Fund.

Under Indiana code 36-2-13-2.8, the Sheriff's minimum compensation is sixty percent of a full-time prosecutor's pay for a county the size of Jasper. For the 2018 fiscal year, that would equate to \$86,482.00. He said that he has not requested a raise in over three years and is just requesting to meet the statute. Mr. Norwine asked Sheriff Risner if he came before the Board a couple years ago and took a reduction in pay and he replied that he did. The budgeted salary for 2018 for Sheriff Risner is \$83,750.00, leaving a difference of \$2,732.00. Sheriff Risner stated that there is other funding from the Sheriff's Department that goes back in to the General Fund, such as \$200 from each Sheriff's sale, revenue from civil processes and money from the Department of Corrections House Bill 10006. Mr. Norwine made a motion to increase Sheriff Risner's salary to \$86,482.00 to meet the state statute and to approve the Sheriff's contract. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Risner reported that the jail census is currently at ninety-seven. They had ninety-five on Monday and one-hundred over the week-end.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / BRYAN OVERSTREET: Advertised in the County General Fund, Extension, Travel was \$2,000.00. Mr. Overstreet stated that he has been using the County car when it's available; however, one car is not allowed to be taken out of the county and most of his trips are out of the county. Mr. Bontreger proposed that the Mileage line item in the Commissioners budget in County General be used, as opposed to doing an additional appropriation. He agreed to the arrangement. Auditor Grow gave Mr. Overstreet the appropriation number to use when turning in claim forms to the Auditor's Office. Mr. Bontreger encouraged him to continue to use the county car if it's available.

Mr. Overstreet stated that the Council should have received invitations for the Extension Office's annual meeting on November 6, 2017.

Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request in the amount of \$2,000.00. Mr. Risner seconded. Motion failed by a vote of (1) yea and (4) nays. Let the record show that Mr. Risner voted in favor. Mr. Jordan, Mr. DeVries, Mr. Bontreger, Mr. Fritts and Mr. Norwine voted against.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/ LIT FUND: Advertised in the LIT County Share Fund, Commissioners, Other Services & Charges was \$30,000.00. This is to pay for the financial analysis that the County received from Umbaugh. Mr. DeVries inquired if this would be a one-time fee. Mr. Bontreger replied that the \$30,000.00 charge was for the initial set up. He believes there will be a recurring yearly charge of approximately \$5,000.00 for Umbaugh to give the County a rolling three year update, which has not been discussed as of yet. Mr. Bontreger believes that, based on the information received thus far, it is a good investment. Mr. Fritts made a motion to approve the additional appropriation. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER / SURVEYOR'S OFFICE: Mr. Urbano requested, by letter, a transfer in the amount of \$804.00 from County General, Garage and Motor to County General, Tires and Tubes.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL OCTOBER 24, 2017

TRANSFER / SURVEYOR'S OFFICE CONT'D: Mr. Risner made a motion to approve the transfer. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET ADOPTION:

Ray Seif / Airport Authority: Mr. Seif was present and stated that, other than an increase of \$35,000.00 in CUM Building for asphalt infrastructure, the budget remained similar to 2017. Mr. Norwine made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Seif informed the Council that, in partnership with 4H and the Extension Office, they are holding an Aviation Spark Club geared towards youth that are interested in aviation. The club will provide them with career and airport information as well as pilot and maintenance requirements. It will be held every other Thursday from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Mr. Jordan mentioned that 4H is also trying to start a Robotics club.

Mr. Fritts asked if there is a second company looking at renting space at the airport. Mr. Seif replied that Vaughn's Aircraft Service has already signed a lease. The owner is an individual that does not have any employees, but he is working with a maintenance shop. He is set up with the FAA as having a mobile repair business, with Jasper County being his first physical location. He also works for American Airlines.

Mr. Seif said they are actively seeking additional commercial activity at the airport.

Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District / Carol Stradling: Mr. Norwine asked about the tire recycling program. Ms. Stradling replied that she didn't have any problems with it this year. The decision by her Board is that they will continue to cover the cost of up to six trailers, but they are unable to provide manpower to move the tires. Mr. Shanks mentioned that, at a recent Commissioners meeting, the Commissioners stated that they wanted to continue the tire collection as a means to prevent tires from ending up in the county ditches.

TAX ABATEMENT: Mr. Bontreger stated that, after a discussion with Advanced Auto, they have repealed their tax evaluation appeal.

CHRIS WOODCOCK/ AMERICAN VETERANS TRAVELING TRIBUTE TRAVELING VIETNAM WALL: Mr. Woodcock was present to request that the Council help fund a Historic Military Impressions exhibit that will consist of Vietnam relics to be located alongside the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Traveling Vietnam Wall. He requested \$500.00 which would cover one-quarter of the cost. The first payment is due by April 18, 2018 and the second payment is due three days after the event ends. Mr. Woodcock passed out fliers that have been made for the event and welcomed individual donations. The Veterans Office will provide a receipt to anyone that donates. He said they are looking for volunteers for set-up May 24th at 8:00 A.M. and tear down on May 28th at 3:00 P.M. sharp, immediately following the closing ceremonies. They are also looking for volunteers for guard duty. As a requirement of the contract, the Veterans Office has to provide guard duty 24/7 from the time the wall is opened to visitors on May 24th at 12:00 P.M. until the time it closes on May 28th at 3:00 P.M. They are also looking for computer operators. He said they've received positive feedback from the local schools, with them offering to help the Veteran's Office select school-aged volunteers. The Wall will be located at Brookside Park in the old football field, which is now being used as a soccer field. He commended Kevin Cochran and Mayor Wood for the work that they've done in coordinating everything and making the grounds look extravagant. Mr. Risner asked if Mr. Woodcock sees this as an attraction that out of county people will visit. Mr. Woodcock replied that the American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) is based in Texas and is the same wall that was in Goodland in 2009. When in Goodland, the wall drew in over thirty-thousand visitors from nine different states, as documented on the visitor registry. This is the largest replica in the nation, standing eight feet tall at it's apex. Mr. Fritts stated that he and Mr. Risner think this is considered Tourism. Mr. Woodcock stated that Tourism generously donated \$5,000.00 in the beginning in order to secure the dates and the contract with AVTT. The Jasper Foundation has also donated \$1,000.00. Mr. Norwine stated that he saw the wall when it was in Demotte and it's very moving.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 24, 2017**

AMERICAN VETERANS TRAVELING TRIBUTE TRAVELING VIETNAM WALL CONT'D: He has personally supported the fundraising efforts by the Veteran's Office by purchasing raffle tickets, but said that the Council has to consider wants and needs based on the County's budget. Mr. Woodcock mentioned that he is unable to submit a request to the Jasper Newton Foundation since they awarded the Veterans Office with a large amount of money in the spring to be used towards the purchase of a vehicle. Mr. Bontreger suggested that Mr. Woodcock talk to Mr. Wakeland about manpower from Community Corrections to help with set up and tear down. Mr. Woodcock said that the owners of Curtis Creek have donated the use of ten golf carts to be used by people with disabilities. When asked by Mr. Bontreger when he would need a definitive answer to his request, Mr. Woodcock replied that his goal is to have all the funding in place by the end of the year so he can focus on securing volunteers.

BUDGET ADOPTION CONT'D:

Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District / Carol Stradling Cont'd: Mr. Fritts made a motion to approve the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District budget, as presented. Mr. Risner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Iroquois Conservancy District / Dan Blaney / Dale Lehe: Mr. Blaney stated that their budget is slightly higher than it's been the past several years. Mike Kingman retired and they've made arrangements to work with his son, who works for Stewart Engineering in Lafayette. He will be flying a drone over the length of the river in Jasper County. Mr. Blaney said, for the most part, the residents along the river are cooperative. Mr. Lehe thanked the Council for their time spent and effort put forth handling County business. Mr. Bontreger stated that the budget request is \$322,500.00 with an adopted tax levy of \$50,000.00 and the rate is .0054. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the budget, as presented. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2018 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE: Mr. Risner mentioned that the March 2018 meeting happens to fall during the Kankakee Valley School Corporation's spring break and the fourth Tuesday of the month falls during Rensselaer School Corporation's spring break. He proposed holding the meeting on March 13th. Mr. Jordan suggested that the Council not make a decision until they can get some more dates together. Mr. Bontreger said that the 2018 schedule has not been set, but the Councilmen can be thinking about days that won't work for them.

BUDGET ADOPTION CONT'D:

Rensselaer Central School Corporation: Mr. Bontreger read the budget numbers aloud.

County General	\$11,000,175
Debt Services	\$2,169,264
Tax Levy	\$1,907,230 with a rate of 0.2725
Capital Projects	\$2,840,622
Adopted Tax Levy	\$3,060,301 with a rate of 0.4372
Transportation	\$847,887
Adopted Tax Levy	\$798,239 with a rate of 0.1127
Bus Replacement	\$200,000
Adopted Tax Levy	\$176,452 with a rate of 0.0252
Total	\$17,057,948
Adopted Tax Levy	\$5,933,222 with a total adopted tax rate of 0.8476

Mr. DeVries made a motion to approve the budget, as presented. Mr. Risner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

AMERICAN VETERANS TRAVELING TRIBUTE TRAVELING VIETNAM WALL CONT'D: Attorney Monfort mentioned that he donated money to the Veteran's Office for the wall because he is a Veteran and he thinks it's a wonderful thing they're doing. There was discussion amongst the Council regarding how they should handle Mr. Woodcock's request.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 24, 2017**

There being no further business and no public comment, Mr. Fritts made a motion to adjourn. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Rein O. Bontreger, President

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County